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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Box IDS

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The citation of information on the attached Form PTO-1449, "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant" is made pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98. A copy of each cited item is enclosed.

The citation of this information does not constitute an admission of priority or that any cited item is available as a reference, or a waiver of any right the applicants may have under applicable statutes, Rules of Practice in patent cases, or otherwise.

Respectfully submitted,

William O. Isaacs, II Reg. No. 44,165

King & Spalding 191 Peachtree Street, N.E. 45th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303 404.572.4600 (main) 404.572.5145 (fax)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box IDS, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 27, 2001.

William O. Isaacs, II, Reg. No. 44,165